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EXAMINER

HAWKINS, CHERYL N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1734

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/662,851	MARSCHAND ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Cheryl N Hawkins	1734	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                    |                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                                |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/03; 8/04</u> .                                                         | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: "cutch" in line 2 of the claim should be changed to --clutch--. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Double Patenting***

2. Applicant is advised that should claim 22 be found allowable, claim 30 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).
3. Applicant is advised that should claim 29 be found allowable, claim 31 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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5. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morinaga (US 5,772,840). Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, casing 20); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 21) rotationally mounted in the case and including a supply of tape (Figure 1, correction tape 10) having an application layer (Figure 1, correction agent layer 11) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, base tape 12); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 22) rotationally mounted in the case and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, pressure blade member 35) pivotally mounted in the case and disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip pivoting between a rest position and at least an application position; and a cushion body (Figure 1, spring 32) disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (column 3, lines 4-35).

As to Claim 2, Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 1, spring 32) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (column 3, lines 24-27).

As to Claim 6, Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 1, spring 32) is independent and separate from the case (Figure 1, casing 20) and the applicator tip (Figure 1, pressure blade member 35) and disposed between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case.

As to Claim 15, Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the case (Figure 1, casing 20) includes at least a tape post (Figure 1, tape guides 10a and 10b) adapted to guide the tape from the supply spool to the applicator tip and from the applicator tip to the return spool.

6. Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 18, 19, 22, 27, 30, 32, 33, and 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huthmacher (WO 01/62648). As to Claim 1, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted in the case and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a

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carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotationally mounted in the case and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case and disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip pivoting between a rest position and at least an application position; and a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claims 2 and 19, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 9, lines 1-15).

As to Claims 6 and 27, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case and the applicator tip and disposed between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case.

As to Claim 7, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool and the return spool (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claims 8, 22, and 30, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) includes an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d) and a plurality of guides (Figure 7, lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides are adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 9, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 10, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2,

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take-up spool 13), wherein the slip clutch is adapted to slippably couple the supply spool to the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 18, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply side and a return side; a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted on the supply side of the wheel and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) disposed on the return side of the wheel and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case, the applicator tip disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip adapted to pivot relative to the case between a rest position and at least an application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case, wherein the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position is resiliently opposed by the cushion body; and a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the supply side of the drive wheel, the projections adapted to transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool and to provide slippable rotation of the supply spool relative to the rotation of the return spool.

As to Claim 32, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply of transfer tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case and including an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d); and a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotatably mounted in the case and slippably coupled to the supply spool (page 8, lines 2-13); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip; wherein pressing the application edge on a surface and moving

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the application edge in an application direction causes rotation of the supply spool to thereby supply transfer tape to the application edge; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the application layer of the transfer tape to adhere to the surface; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the return spool to rotate to thereby collect the carrier tape on the return spool; wherein the pressing of the application edge on the surface causes the applicator tip to pivot relative to the case from a rest position to at least an application position against the discrete cushion body disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip, and wherein the cushion body resiliently opposes the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claim 33, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position.

As to Claim 37, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case.

As to Claim 38, Huthmacher disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip includes an application edge and a plurality of guides (Figure lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides is adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 39, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 40, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the drive wheel, the projections adapted to slippably transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool (Figure 2, drive connection 26, supply spool 11; page 8, lines 2-13).

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-3, 6, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morinaga (US 5,772,840) in view of Vulpitta et al. (US 6,681,830). Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, casing 20); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 21) rotationally mounted in the case and including a supply of tape (Figure 1, correction tape 10) having an application layer (Figure 1, correction agent layer 11) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, base tape 12); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 22) rotationally mounted in the case and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, pressure blade member 35) pivotally mounted in the case and disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip pivoting between a rest position and at least an application position; and a cushion body (Figure 1, spring 32) disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (column 3, lines 4-35).

As to Claim 2, Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 1, spring 32) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (column 3, lines 24-27).

As to Claim 3, Morinaga does not disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body is co-molded with the applicator tip. It is well known and conventional in the apparatus art, as disclosed by Vulpitta et al. (column 4, line 66 through column 5, line 6), to integrally mold the inner structural elements of an apparatus as a matter of engineering choice to minimize the number of parts needed to assemble the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the



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invention to modify the cushion body and the applicator tip of Morinaga to be co-molded as suggested by Vulpitta et al. to minimize the number of parts needed to assemble the apparatus.

As to Claim 6, Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 1, spring 32) is independent and separate from the case (Figure 1, casing 20) and the applicator tip (Figure 1, pressure blade member 35) and disposed between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case.

As to Claim 15, Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the case (Figure 1, casing 20) includes at least a tape post (Figure 1, tape guides 10a and 10b) adapted to guide the tape from the supply spool to the applicator tip and from the applicator tip to the return spool.

As to Claims 16 and 28, Morinaga does not disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein an exterior of the case includes a plurality of grip pads. Vulpitta et al. discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein an exterior of the case (Figure 6, housing 12) include a plurality of grip pads (Figure 6, grip ribs 48) which provide the dispenser with ergonomic shaping for a user's hand (column 4, lines 26-30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the case of Morinaga to include a plurality of grip pads as suggested by Vulpitta et al. to provide the dispenser with ergonomic shaping for a user's hand.

9. Claims 1-3, 6-10, 16, 18, 19, 22, 27, 28, 30, 32-34, and 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huthmacher (WO 01/62648) in view of Vulpitta et al. (US 6,681,830). As to Claim 1, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted in the case and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotationally mounted in the case and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case and disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip pivoting between a rest position and at least an application position; and a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering

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apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claims 2 and 19, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 9, lines 1-15).

As to Claims 3, 20, and 34, Huthmacher does not disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body is co-molded with the applicator tip. It is well known and conventional in the apparatus art, as disclosed by Vulpitta et al. (column 4, line 66 through column 5, line 6), to integrally mold the inner structural elements of an apparatus as a matter of engineering choice to minimize the number of parts needed to assemble the apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the cushion body and the applicator tip of Huthmacher to be co-molded as suggested by Vulpitta et al. to minimize the number of parts needed to assemble the apparatus.

As to Claims 6 and 27, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case and the applicator tip and disposed between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case.

As to Claim 7, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool and the return spool (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claims 8, 22, and 30, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) includes an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d) and a plurality of guides (Figure 7, lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides are adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 9, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

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As to Claim 10, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13), wherein the slip clutch is adapted to slippably couple the supply spool to the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claims 16 and 28, Huthmacher does not disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein an exterior of the case includes a plurality of grip pads. Vulpitta et al. discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein an exterior of the case (Figure 6, housing 12) include a plurality of grip pads (Figure 6, grip ribs 48) which provide the dispenser with ergonomic shaping for a user's hand (column 4, lines 26-30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the case of Huthmacher to include a plurality of grip pads as suggested by Vulpitta et al. to provide the dispenser with ergonomic shaping for a user's hand.

As to Claim 18, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply side and a return side; a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted on the supply side of the wheel and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) disposed on the return side of the wheel and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case, the applicator tip disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip adapted to pivot relative to the case between a rest position and at least an application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case, wherein the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position is resiliently opposed by the cushion body; and a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the supply side of the drive wheel, the projections adapted to transfer rotation of

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the drive wheel to the supply spool and to provide slippable rotation of the supply spool relative to the rotation of the return spool.

As to Claim 32, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply of transfer tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case and including an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d); and a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotatably mounted in the case and slippably coupled to the supply spool (page 8, lines 2-13); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip; wherein pressing the application edge on a surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes rotation of the supply spool to thereby supply transfer tape to the application edge; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the application layer of the transfer tape to adhere to the surface; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the return spool to rotate to thereby collect the carrier tape on the return spool; wherein the pressing of the application edge on the surface causes the applicator tip to pivot relative to the case from a rest position to at least an application position against the discrete cushion body disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip, and wherein the cushion body resiliently opposes the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claim 33, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position.

As to Claim 37, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case.

As to Claim 38, Huthmacher disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip includes an application edge and a plurality of guides (Figure lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides is adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 39, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 40, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the drive wheel, the projections adapted to slippably transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool (Figure 2, drive connection 26, supply spool 11; page 8, lines 2-13).

10. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morinaga (US 5,772,840) in view of Goodwin et al. (US 5,009,739) and Bouveresse (US 6,732,781). Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, casing 20); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 21) rotationally mounted in the case and including a supply of tape (Figure 1, correction tape 10) having an application layer (Figure 1, correction agent layer 11) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, base tape 12); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 22) rotationally mounted in the case and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, pressure blade member 35) pivotally mounted in the case and disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip pivoting between a rest position and at least an application position; and a cushion body (Figure 1, spring 32) disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (column 3, lines 4-35).

As to Claim 2, Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 1, spring 32) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (column 3, lines 24-27).

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As to Claim 4, Morinaga is silent as to a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body is constructed from a different material than an applicator tip material and a case material. Goodwin et al. discloses a dispenser wherein a cushion body is constructed from a resilient elastomeric material to provide limited movement for an inner structural element (column 9, lines 22-24). Bouveresse discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip is constructed from a rigid, molded plastic material to provide an accurately shaped part at a reasonable cost (column 6, lines 6-9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to construct the cushion body of Morinaga from a resilient elastomeric material as suggested by Goodwin et al. to provide controlled movement of the applicator tip and to construct the applicator tip of Morinaga from a rigid, molded plastic material as suggested by Bouveresse to provide an accurately shaped part at a reasonable cost.

As to Claims 5 and 26, the references as combined (see Goodwin et al.) disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body is constructed with an elastomer (column 9, lines 22-24).

As to Claim 6, Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 1, spring 32) is independent and separate from the case (Figure 1, casing 20) and the applicator tip (Figure 1, pressure blade member 35) and disposed between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case.

As to Claim 15, Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the case (Figure 1, casing 20) includes at least a tape post (Figure 1, tape guides 10a and 10b) adapted to guide the tape from the supply spool to the applicator tip and from the applicator tip to the return spool.

11. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 18, 19, 22, 26, 27, 30, 32, 33, and 35-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huthmacher (WO 01/62648) in view of Goodwin et al. (US 5,009, 739) and Bouveresse (US 6,732,781). As to Claim 1, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted in the case and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotationally mounted in the case and adapted

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to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case and disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip pivoting between a rest position and at least an application position; and a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claims 2 and 19, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 9, lines 1-15).

As to Claims 4 and 35, Huthmacher is silent as to a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body is constructed from a different material than an applicator tip material and a case material. Goodwin et al. discloses a dispenser wherein a cushion body is constructed from a resilient elastomeric material to provide limited movement for an inner structural element (column 9, lines 22-24). Bouveresse discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip is constructed from a rigid, molded plastic material to provide an accurately shaped part at a reasonable cost (column 6, lines 6-9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to construct the cushion body of Huthmacher from a resilient elastomeric material as suggested by Goodwin et al. to provide controlled movement of the applicator tip and to construct the applicator tip of Huthmacher from a rigid, molded plastic material as suggested by Bouveresse to provide an accurately shaped part at a reasonable cost.

As to Claims 5, 26, and 36, the references as combined (see Goodwin et al.) disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body is constructed with an elastomer (column 9, lines 22-24).

As to Claims 6 and 27, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case and the applicator tip and disposed between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case.

As to Claim 7, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool and the return spool (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claims 8, 22, and 30, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) includes an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d) and a plurality of guides (Figure 7, lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides are adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 9, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 10, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13), wherein the slip clutch is adapted to slippably couple the supply spool to the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 18, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply side and a return side; a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted on the supply side of the wheel and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) disposed on the return side of the wheel and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case, the applicator tip disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip adapted to pivot relative to the case between a rest position and at least an application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case, wherein the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position is resiliently opposed by the cushion body; and a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the supply side of the drive wheel, the projections adapted to transfer rotation of



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the drive wheel to the supply spool and to provide slippable rotation of the supply spool relative to the rotation of the return spool.

As to Claim 32, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply of transfer tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case and including an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d); and a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotatably mounted in the case and slippably coupled to the supply spool (page 8, lines 2-13); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip; wherein pressing the application edge on a surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes rotation of the supply spool to thereby supply transfer tape to the application edge; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the application layer of the transfer tape to adhere to the surface; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the return spool to rotate to thereby collect the carrier tape on the return spool; wherein the pressing of the application edge on the surface causes the applicator tip to pivot relative to the case from a rest position to at least an application position against the discrete cushion body disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip, and wherein the cushion body resiliently opposes the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claim 33, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position.

As to Claim 37, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case.

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As to Claim 38, Huthmacher disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip includes an application edge and a plurality of guides (Figure lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides is adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 39, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 40, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the drive wheel, the projections adapted to slippably transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool (Figure 2, drive connection 26, supply spool 11; page 8, lines 2-13).

12. Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 18, 19, 22, 23, 27, 30, 32, 33, and 37-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huthmacher (WO 01/62648) in view of Huthmacher et al. (US 6,796,355). As to Claim 1, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted in the case and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotationally mounted in the case and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case and disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip pivoting between a rest position and at least an application position; and a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claims 2 and 19, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 9, lines 1-15).

As to Claims 6 and 27, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case and the applicator tip and disposed between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case.

As to Claim 7, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool and the return spool (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claims 8, 22, and 30, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) includes an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d) and a plurality of guides (Figure 7, lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides are adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 9, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 10, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13), wherein the slip clutch is adapted to slippably couple the supply spool to the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claims 11, 23, and 41, Huthmacher is silent as to a transfer tape dispenser wherein the return spool is integral with the drive wheel. Huthmacher et al. discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the return spool (Figure 3, take-up reel 5) is integral with the drive wheel (Figure 3, gear arrangement 27). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the drive wheel of Huthmacher to be integral with the return spool as suggested by Huthmacher et al. to yield a dispenser which includes a minimal number of parts, thereby reducing assemble time for the dispenser.

As to Claim 18, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotatably mounted in the case and including a

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supply side and a return side; a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted on the supply side of the wheel and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) disposed on the return side of the wheel and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case, the applicator tip disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip adapted to pivot relative to the case between a rest position and at least an application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case, wherein the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position is resiliently opposed by the cushion body; and a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the supply side of the drive wheel, the projections adapted to transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool and to provide slippable rotation of the supply spool relative to the rotation of the return spool.

As to Claim 32, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply of transfer tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case and including an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d); and a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotatably mounted in the case and slippably coupled to the supply spool (page 8, lines 2-13); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip; wherein pressing the application edge on a surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes rotation of the supply spool to thereby supply transfer tape to the application edge; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the application layer of the transfer tape to adhere to the surface; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an

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application direction causes the return spool to rotate to thereby collect the carrier tape on the return spool; wherein the pressing of the application edge on the surface causes the applicator tip to pivot relative to the case from a rest position to at least an application position against the discrete cushion body disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip, and wherein the cushion body resiliently opposes the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claim 33, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position.

As to Claim 37, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case.

As to Claim 38, Huthmacher disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip includes an application edge and a plurality of guides (Figure lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides is adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 39, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 40, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the drive wheel, the projections adapted to slippably transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool (Figure 2, drive connection 26, supply spool 11; page 8, lines 2-13).

13. Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 12, 18, 19, 22, 24, 27, 30, 32, 33, 37-40, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huthmacher (WO 01/62648) in view of Hsu (US 6,453,968). As to Claim 1, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted in the case and including a supply of tape having

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an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotationally mounted in the case and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case and disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip pivoting between a rest position and at least an application position; and a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claims 2 and 19, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 9, lines 1-15).

As to Claims 6 and 27, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case and the applicator tip and disposed between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case.

As to Claim 7, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool and the return spool (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claims 8, 22, and 30, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) includes an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d) and a plurality of guides (Figure 7, lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides are adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 9, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 10, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2,

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take-up spool 13), wherein the slip clutch is adapted to slippably couple the supply spool to the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claims 12, 24, and 42, Huthmacher does not disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein the drive wheel includes a plurality of tabs radially disposed thereon and adapted to engage a plurality of detents radially disposed on an interior of the case to prevent the wheel from rotating in a non-dispensing direction. It is well known and conventional in the dispensing apparatus art, as disclosed by Hsu (Figure 3, casing 1, driving reel 22, ratchet ring 23; column 2, lines 18-22), to provide a drive wheel with a plurality of tabs radially disposed thereon and adapted to engage a plurality of detents radially disposed on an interior of the case to prevent the drive wheel from rotating in a non-dispensing direction. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the transfer tape dispenser of Huthmacher to include a drive wheel having a plurality of tabs radially disposed thereon and adapted to engage a plurality of detents radially disposed on an interior of the case as suggested by Hsu to prevent the wheel from rotating in a non-dispensing direction.

As to Claim 18, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply side and a return side; a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted on the supply side of the wheel and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) disposed on the return side of the wheel and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case, the applicator tip disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip adapted to pivot relative to the case between a rest position and at least an application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case, wherein the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position is resiliently opposed by the cushion body; and a slip clutch having a plurality of

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projections attached to the supply side of the drive wheel, the projections adapted to transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool and to provide slippable rotation of the supply spool relative to the rotation of the return spool.

As to Claim 32, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply of transfer tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case and including an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d); and a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotatably mounted in the case and slippably coupled to the supply spool (page 8, lines 2-13); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip; wherein pressing the application edge on a surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes rotation of the supply spool to thereby supply transfer tape to the application edge; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the application layer of the transfer tape to adhere to the surface; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the return spool to rotate to thereby collect the carrier tape on the return spool; wherein the pressing of the application edge on the surface causes the applicator tip to pivot relative to the case from a rest position to at least an application position against the discrete cushion body disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip, and wherein the cushion body resiliently opposes the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claim 33, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position.



As to Claim 37, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case.

As to Claim 38, Huthmacher disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip includes an application edge and a plurality of guides (Figure lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides is adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 39, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 40, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the drive wheel, the projections adapted to slippably transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool (Figure 2, drive connection 26, supply spool 11; page 8, lines 2-13).

14. Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 27, 30, 32, 33, and 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huthmacher (WO 01/62648) in view of Manusch et al. (US 6,079,660). As to Claim 1, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted in the case and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotationally mounted in the case and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case and disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip pivoting between a rest position and at least an application position; and a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claims 2 and 19, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 9, lines 1-15).

As to Claims 6 and 27, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case and the applicator tip and disposed between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case.

As to Claim 7, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool and the return spool (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claims 8, 22, and 30, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) includes an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d) and a plurality of guides (Figure 7, lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides are adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 9, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 10, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13), wherein the slip clutch is adapted to slippably couple the supply spool to the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 13, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the slip clutch frictionally engages both the supply spool and the return spool to limit tensile stress on the carrier tape (page 8, lines 2-13), but is silent as to the inner structural elements of the slip clutch. Manusch et al. discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the slip clutch (Figure 1, slipping clutch 16) includes a plurality of arcuate shoes (Figure 1, support shoes 18) coupled to a hub (Figure 1, spindle 15) projecting from the drive wheel, and wherein the plurality of arcuate shoes frictionally engage an internal periphery

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of the return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool core 11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the slip clutch of Huthmacher with inner structural elements, i.e. a plurality of arcuate shoes coupled to a hub projecting from the drive wheel, as suggested by Manusch et al. to enable the slipping clutch to frictionally engage an internal periphery of both the supply spool and the return spool and thereby control the tensile stress on the carrier tape.

As to Claim 14, the references as combined (see Manusch et al.) disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein each arcuate shoe includes ridges (Figure 1, stops 20) projecting from an outer surface thereof, and wherein the ridges frictionally engage the internal periphery of both the supply spool and the take-up spool.

As to Claim 18, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply side and a return side; a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted on the supply side of the wheel and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) disposed on the return side of the wheel and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case, the applicator tip disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip adapted to pivot relative to the case between a rest position and at least an application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case, wherein the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position is resiliently opposed by the cushion body; and a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the supply side of the drive wheel, the projections adapted to transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool and to provide slippable rotation of the supply spool relative to the rotation of the return spool.

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As to Claim 32, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply of transfer tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case and including an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d); and a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotatably mounted in the case and slippably coupled to the supply spool (page 8, lines 2-13); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip; wherein pressing the application edge on a surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes rotation of the supply spool to thereby supply transfer tape to the application edge; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the application layer of the transfer tape to adhere to the surface; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the return spool to rotate to thereby collect the carrier tape on the return spool; wherein the pressing of the application edge on the surface causes the applicator tip to pivot relative to the case from a rest position to at least an application position against the discrete cushion body disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip, and wherein the cushion body resiliently opposes the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claim 33, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position.

As to Claim 37, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case.

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As to Claim 38, Huthmacher disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip includes an application edge and a plurality of guides (Figure lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides is adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 39, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 40, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the drive wheel, the projections adapted to slippably transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool (Figure 2, drive connection 26, supply spool 11; page 8, lines 2-13).

15. Claims 1, 2, 6, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morinaga (US 5,772,840) in view of You (US 2004/0033353). Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, casing 20); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 21) rotationally mounted in the case and including a supply of tape (Figure 1, correction tape 10) having an application layer (Figure 1, correction agent layer 11) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, base tape 12); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 22) rotationally mounted in the case and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, pressure blade member 35) pivotally mounted in the case and disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip pivoting between a rest position and at least an application position; and a cushion body (Figure 1, spring 32) disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (column 3, lines 4-35).

As to Claim 2, Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 1, spring 32) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (column 3, lines 24-27).

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As to Claim 6, Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 1, spring 32) is independent and separate from the case (Figure 1, casing 20) and the applicator tip (Figure 1, pressure blade member 35) and disposed between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case.

As to Claim 15, Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the case (Figure 1, casing 20) includes at least a tape post (Figure 1, tape guides 10a and 10b) adapted to guide the tape from the supply spool to the applicator tip and from the applicator tip to the return spool.

As to Claims 17, 29, and 31, Morinaga does not disclose a transfer tape dispenser which includes an applicator tip protector pivotally attached to an exterior of the case and adapted to pivot between an open position wherein the applicator tip is uncovered and a closed position wherein the applicator tip is covered. You discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes an applicator tip protector pivotally attached to an exterior of the case and adapted to pivot between an open position wherein the applicator tip is uncovered and a closed position wherein the applicator tip is covered (Figures 1 and 2, protective cap 200). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the transfer tape dispenser of Morinaga to include an applicator tip protector as suggested by You to provide protection for the applicator tip and the transfer tape during storage.

16. Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 17-19, 22, 27, 29-33, 37-40, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huthmacher (WO 01/62648) in view of You (US 2004/0033353). As to Claim 1, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted in the case and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotationally mounted in the case and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case and disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip pivoting between a rest position and at least an application position; and a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32,

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spring element 29) disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claims 2 and 19, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 9, lines 1-15).

As to Claims 6 and 27, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case and the applicator tip and disposed between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case.

As to Claim 7, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool and the return spool (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claims 8, 22, and 30, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) includes an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d) and a plurality of guides (Figure 7, lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides are adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 9, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 10, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13), wherein the slip clutch is adapted to slippably couple the supply spool to the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claims 17, 29, 31, and 43, Huthmacher does not disclose a transfer tape dispenser which includes an applicator tip protector pivotally attached to an exterior of the case and adapted to pivot between an open position wherein the applicator tip is uncovered and a closed position wherein the applicator tip is covered. You discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes an applicator tip

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protector pivotally attached to an exterior of the case and adapted to pivot between an open position wherein the applicator tip is uncovered and a closed position wherein the applicator tip is covered (Figures 1 and 2, protective cap 200). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the transfer tape dispenser of Huthmacher to include an applicator tip protector as suggested by You to provide protection for the applicator tip and the transfer tape during storage.

As to Claim 18, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply side and a return side; a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted on the supply side of the wheel and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) disposed on the return side of the wheel and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case, the applicator tip disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip adapted to pivot relative to the case between a rest position and at least an application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case, wherein the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position is resiliently opposed by the cushion body; and a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the supply side of the drive wheel, the projections adapted to transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool and to provide slippable rotation of the supply spool relative to the rotation of the return spool.

As to Claim 32, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply of transfer tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case



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and including an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d); and a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotatably mounted in the case and slippably coupled to the supply spool (page 8, lines 2-13); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip; wherein pressing the application edge on a surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes rotation of the supply spool to thereby supply transfer tape to the application edge; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the application layer of the transfer tape to adhere to the surface; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the return spool to rotate to thereby collect the carrier tape on the return spool; wherein the pressing of the application edge on the surface causes the applicator tip to pivot relative to the case from a rest position to at least an application position against the discrete cushion body disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip, and wherein the cushion body resiliently opposes the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claim 33, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position.

As to Claim 37, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case.

As to Claim 38, Huthmacher disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip includes an application edge and a plurality of guides (Figure lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides is adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 39, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 40, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the drive wheel, the projections adapted to slippably transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool (Figure 2, drive connection 26, supply spool 11; page 8, lines 2-13).

17. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huthmacher (WO 01/62648) and You (US 2004/0033353) as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Goodwin et al. (US 5,009,739) and Bouveresse (US 6,732,781). As to Claim 21, the references as combined are silent as to a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body is constructed from a different material than an applicator tip material and a case material. Goodwin et al. discloses a dispenser wherein a cushion body is constructed from a resilient elastomeric material to provide limited movement for an inner structural element (column 9, lines 22-24). Bouveresse discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip is constructed from a rigid, molded plastic material to provide an accurately shaped part at a reasonable cost (column 6, lines 6-9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to construct the cushion body of the references as combined from a resilient elastomeric material as suggested by Goodwin et al. to provide controlled movement of the applicator tip and to construct the applicator tip of the references as combined from a rigid, molded plastic material as suggested by Bouveresse to provide an accurately shaped part at a reasonable cost.

18. Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 18, 19, 22, 25, 27, 30, 32, 33, and 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huthmacher (WO 01/62648) in view of Morinaga (US 5,772,840). As to Claim 1, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted in the case and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotationally mounted in the case and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case and disposed in a path

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of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip pivoting between a rest position and at least an application position; and a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claims 2 and 19, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position (page 9, lines 1-15).

As to Claims 6 and 27, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 2, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case and the applicator tip and disposed between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case.

As to Claim 7, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool and the return spool (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claims 8, 22, and 30, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) includes an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d) and a plurality of guides (Figure 7, lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides are adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 9, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 10, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser which includes a slip clutch adapted to slippably couple the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13), wherein the slip clutch is adapted to slippably couple the supply spool to the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

As to Claim 18, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotatably mounted in the case and including a

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supply side and a return side; a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotationally mounted on the supply side of the wheel and including a supply of tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) disposed on the return side of the wheel and adapted to collect the carrier tape; a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case, the applicator tip disposed in a path of the tape between the supply spool and the return spool, the applicator tip adapted to pivot relative to the case between a rest position and at least an application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between the applicator tip and an interior surface of the case, wherein the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position is resiliently opposed by the cushion body; and a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the supply side of the drive wheel, the projections adapted to transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool and to provide slippable rotation of the supply spool relative to the rotation of the return spool.

As to Claim 25, Huthmacher does not disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein the case includes at least a tape post adapted to guide the tape from the supply spool to the applicator tip and from the applicator tip to the return spool. Morinaga discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the case (Figure 1, casing 20) includes at least a tape post (Figure 1, tape guides 10a and 10b) adapted to guide the tape from the supply spool to the applicator tip and from the applicator tip to the return spool. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the case of Huthmacher to include a tape post as suggested by Morinaga to guide the tape from the supply spool to the applicator tip and from the applicator tip to the return spool.

As to Claim 32, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a case (Figure 1, housing 5); a supply spool (Figure 1, supply spool 11) rotatably mounted in the case and including a supply of transfer tape having an application layer (Figure 1, film 2) and a carrier tape (Figure 1, backing tape 3); a substantially rigid applicator tip (Figure 1, application member 8) pivotally mounted in the case

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and including an application edge (Figure 1, spatula 8d); and a return spool (Figure 1, take-up spool 13) rotatably mounted in the case and slippably coupled to the supply spool (page 8, lines 2-13); a cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip; wherein pressing the application edge on a surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes rotation of the supply spool to thereby supply transfer tape to the application edge; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the application layer of the transfer tape to adhere to the surface; wherein pressing the application edge on the surface and moving the application edge in an application direction causes the return spool to rotate to thereby collect the carrier tape on the return spool; wherein the pressing of the application edge on the surface causes the applicator tip to pivot relative to the case from a rest position to at least an application position against the discrete cushion body disposed in the case between an interior surface of the case and the applicator tip, and wherein the cushion body resiliently opposes the pivoting of the applicator tip to the application position (page 8, line 22 through page 9, line 21).

As to Claim 33, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is a discrete cushion body disposed in the case and adapted to bias the applicator tip to the rest position from the application position.

As to Claim 37, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser wherein the cushion body (Figure 6, mid-centering apparatus 32, spring element 29) is independent and separate from the case.

As to Claim 38, Huthmacher disclose a transfer tape dispenser wherein the applicator tip includes an application edge and a plurality of guides (Figure lateral guiding webs 17), wherein the plurality of guides is adapted to guide the tape to and from the application edge.

As to Claim 39, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a drive wheel (Figure 2, drive connection 26) rotationally mounted in the case, wherein the supply spool (Figure 2, supply spool 11) and the return spool (Figure 2, take-up spool 13) are disposed on the drive wheel (page 8, lines 2-13).

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As to Claim 40, Huthmacher discloses a transfer tape dispenser comprising a slip clutch having a plurality of projections attached to the drive wheel, the projections adapted to slippably transfer rotation of the drive wheel to the supply spool (Figure 2, drive connection 26, supply spool 11; page 8, lines 2-13).


***Conclusion***

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl N Hawkins whose telephone number is (571) 272-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher A Fiorilla can be reached on (517) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cheryl N. Hawkins  
December 22, 2004

  
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